

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Prescott National Forest

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**For Immediate Release
June 1, 2006**

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Sugarloaf Fire

PRESCOTT, AZ (June 1, 2006) - A 1/10 of an acre fire was reported yesterday afternoon at 2:45 p.m. The fire was located east of Thumb Butte Road on Forest Road 51. Two engines and a helicopter responded to the fire. Due to quick response by forest personnel the fire was quickly contained.

The fire was creeping through ponderosa pine and needles; fortunately this area was treated with prescribed fire last year which reduced the fuels and the risk of a catastrophic wildfire. "We understand the presence of smoke is an irritant and inconvenient to members of the community in the fall and spring when we conduct our prescribed burning," said Curtis Heaton, Fire Management Officer. "But here is an excellent example of the benefits of reducing fuels and creating defensible space for Prescott and the surrounding forested communities."

The human caused fire remains under investigation at the time.

We would like to remind forest visitors that we are in Stage II Fire Restrictions:

- Campfires, charcoal grills, and stove fires are prohibited on national forest lands, roads, and trails. An **exception** will be to allow campfires in developed recreation sites where grills and campfire rings are provided.
- Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed.
- Smoking is prohibited except within enclosed vehicles, buildings, or developed recreation sites where the area is cleared of all flammable material.
- Campfires at the designated dispersed sites within the Prescott Basin are prohibited. Metal posts identify designated dispersed sites with a number.
- Welding or operating of acetylene or other torches and blasting are prohibited.
- Operating a chainsaw, or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine are prohibited.
- Possessing, discharging or using any kind of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device is prohibited.
- Use of explosives is prohibited.

For current information on fire restrictions, closures or wildfires on the Prescott National Forest, call 928-777-5799.